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| **Friday, November 9, 2012121109-1****In this Issue:****Update On Leadership of Transportation Committees in U.S. Congress** |

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| **Update On Leadership of Transportation Committees in U.S. Congress**With Election Day behind the U.S. Congress, both the House and Senate have begun the process of selecting leaders and members of a long list of congressional committees. With respect to transportation related committees, here is what is known to date: In the United States Senate, the Environment and Public Works Committee, with jurisdiction over the highway title of our nation’s surface transportation program, will remain under the leadership of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Senator Boxer is returning as chair after having successfully moved – in a bipartisan fashion - MAP-21 in the 112th Congress - integrating our America Fast Forward initiative into the final surface transportation bill signed into law by President Obama. U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) is expected to be the new Ranking Member, replacing Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), who is term-limited after 6 years as the committee’s top Republican. The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, with jurisdiction over transit policy, will remain under the leadership of U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD). U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) will assume the role as Ranking member, taking over for U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL). The Senate Commerce Committee, with jurisdiction over rail, will keep Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) as Chairman, with U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) taking over as Ranking Member from retiring U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development will retain its current leadership, with U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) as Chair and U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) as Ranking Member.The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will more than likely see change at the top with Congressman John Mica (R-FL) termed out as Chairman. There has been speculation that Congressman Mica will seek a waiver to retain his Chairmanship, similar to the waiver being sought by Republican Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI). Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA), son of former T&I Chairman Bud Shuster (R-PA), is likely to take over the committee’s gavel if Congressman Mica is not granted a waiver.  Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) is expected to retain his post as Ranking Member. The House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing & Urban Development will have turnover as well. Chairman Tom Latham (R-IA) will keep his position, but there is an opening for Ranking Member after the retirement of Congressman John Olver (D-MA), with Congressman Ed Pastor (D-AZ) or Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) expected to take over as Ranking Member.Our federal advocacy team in Washington, D.C. will be carefully monitoring this matter and will be working with Members in both the Senate and House, on both sides of the aisle, to advance our Board approved Federal Legislative Program. |
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